

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 OC-06 CCO-00 COME-00

EB-08 IO-13 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 AID-05 /087 W

-----081232Z 094484 /17

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3991

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TZ, KE

SUBJECT: TANZANIA CLOSURE OF BORDER WITH KENYA

REF: STATE 27482

1. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER RESPONDING TO TRAVEL AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING EFFECT OF BORDER CLOSURE ON FUTURE TOURISM IN EAST AFRICA ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

Q. WHAT IS THE SITUATION ALONG THE TANZANIA-KENYA BORDER?

A. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS SUBJECT. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SINCE FEBRUARY 3 THE TANZANIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT PERMITTED ANY CROSSINGS OF THE LAND BORDER WITH KENYA. KENYAN REGISTERED AIRCRAFT AND LAND VEHICLES IN TANZANIA HAVE ALSO NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO MOVE SINCE THAT DATE. HOWEVER, REGULARLY SCHEDULED AIR SERVICES AND CHARTER FLIGHTS OF INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS SUCH AS PAN AM CONTINUE UNAFFECTED BETWEEN TANZANIA AND KENYA.

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1. WHEN WILL THE TANZANIANS REOPEN THE BORDER?

A. THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET INDICATED HOW LONG IT ANTICIPATES THESE RESTRICTIONS REMAINING IN EFFECT.

Q. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR AMERICAN TOURISTS WHO WISH TO VISIT TANZANIA?

A. THE TANZANIAN TOURIST CORPORATION IN DAR ES SALAAM, A TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION, IS RESPONDING DIRECTLY TO INQUIRIES ON THAT SUBJECT.

Q. WHY DID THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT CLOSE THE BORDER, IMPOUND KENYAN REGISTERED VEHICLES AND AIRCRAFT, ETC.?

A. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THIS. YOU MAY WISH TO INQUIRE DIRECTLY OF THE TANZANIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

Q. DID THE TANZANIAN CLOSE THE BORDER IN RETALIATION FOR KENYA GROUNDING EAST AFRICAN AIRLINES?

A. I THINK THAT SORT OF QUESTION IS BEST ANSWERED BY THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q. BUT WILL THE BORDER REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL THE EAST AFRICAN AIRLINE SQUABBLE IS RESOLVED?

A. AGAIN, THAT IS THE SORT OF QUESTION WHICH IS BEST DIRECTED AT THE PARTIES INVOLVED, WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE THE USG.

Q. WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE AMERICAN TOURISTS STRANDED IN NORTHERN TANZANIA?

A. OUR EMBASSIES IN DAR ES SALAAM AND NAIROBI HAVE FACILITATED THE ONWARD TRAVEL OF AMERICAN TOURISTS FROM TANZANIA WHO WISH TO LEAVE. OF COURSE, SOME AMERICAN TOURISTS HAVE CHOSEN NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO INTERRUPT THEIR VISITS TO TANZANIA AND CONTINUE TO MOVE AROUND THE COUNTRY.

Q. IS THE USG DISCOURAGING AMERICANS FROM TRAVELING TO TANZANIA?

A. AMERICANS CONTEMPLATING TRAVEL TO TANZANIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE WOULD PROBABLY BE WELL ADVISED TO INSURE THAT THEIR AIRLINE, HOTEL AND VEHICLE OR CHARTER AIRCRAFT ARRANGEMENTS REMAIN CURRENTLY VALID.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY'S CLASSIFIED ANALYSIS OF THE PRECISE REASONS FOR TANZANIA'S CLOSURE OF ITS BORDER WITH KENYA WILL BE SUBMITTED AS SOON AS REASONABLY RELIABLE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT BECOMES AVAILABLE. TANZANIAN OFFICIALS REMARKS TO US TO DATE MOSTLY EVIDENCE UNFOCUSED ANTIPATHY TOWARD KENYA AND DO NOT PROVIDE A FIRM BASIS FOR UNDERSTANDING TANGOV ACTION. IN ANY CASE, WE SUGGEST THAT MEDIA, TOURIST INDUSTRY AND OTHER INQUIRERS SHOULD LOOK TO TANGOV RATHER THAN USG FOR EXPLANATION OF TANGOV'S ACTIONS.
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